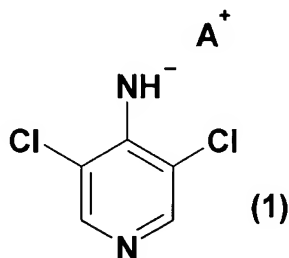


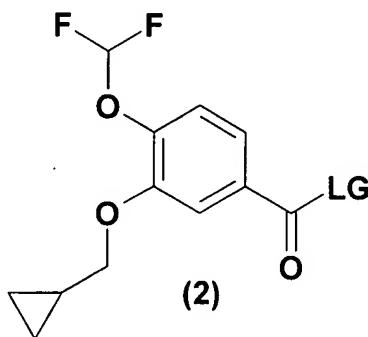
JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 18 APR 2009

Appendix AClaim Amendments

1. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the preparation of roflumilast by reacting an ~~[[the]]~~ anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine (1)



in which A^+ is a cation, ~~preferably an alkali metal cation and particularly preferably a potassium cation,~~ with an activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2),



in which LG is a suitable leaving group, ~~preferably a chlorine atom, a bromine atom or a radical of the formula OC(O)-1-4C-alkyl , and particularly preferably a chlorine atom,~~

characterized in that the molar ratio of the employed anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine (1) to the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is at least 1.5 and at most 3.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the molar ratio of the employed anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine (1) to the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is at least 1.8 and at most 2.7.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the molar ratio of the employed anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine (1) to the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is at least 2 and at most 2.5.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the molar ratio of the

employed anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine (1) to the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is 2.2.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that the reaction of the anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine (1) with ~~[[an]]~~ the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is carried out in a solvent selected from the group consisting of dichloromethane, toluene, xylene, dimethylformamide ~~[[or]]~~ and N-methylpyrrolidone.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~, characterized in that the reaction of the anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine (1) with ~~[[an]]~~ the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is carried out in a dimethylformamide.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that the reaction of the anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine (1)

with ~~[[an]]~~ the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is carried out a temperature between 0°C and the boiling point of the inert solvent used.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 6~~, characterized in that the reaction of the anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine (1) with ~~[[an]]~~ the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is carried out a temperature between 20°C and 30°C.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 8~~, characterized in that the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoyl chloride.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 8~~, characterized in that the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoyl bromide.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 8~~, characterized in that the activated derivative of 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid (2) is a 3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-difluoromethoxybenzoic acid 1-4C-alkyl-ester.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 11~~, characterized in that a strong base selected from the group consisting of KOtBu, NaOtBu and LiOtBu is used to prepare the anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 12, characterized in that KOtBu is used to prepare the anion of 4-amino-3,5-dichloropyridine (1).

14. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 13~~, characterized in that the product resulting from the process is recrystallized in a mixture of isopropanol and water, wherein said ratio of isopropanol:water is between 85:15 and 100:0% by volume

~~{ratio isopropanol/water: between 85:15 and 100:0% by volume, preferably between 90:10 and 95:5% by volume}.~~

15. (Currently amended) Roflumilast prepared by a process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 14~~.

16. (Currently amended) Roflumilast prepared by a process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 14~~, characterized in that the purity is $\geq 99\%$ by weight, ~~preferably $\geq 99.8\%$ by weight~~.

17. (Currently amended) Roflumilast prepared by a process according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1 to 14~~, characterized in that it contains less than 0.1% by weight, ~~preferably less than 0.05% by weight~~, of ~~[[the]]~~ a by-product N-(3,5-dichloropyrid-4-yl)-3-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-hydroxybenzamide.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) ~~Pharmaceutical compositions~~ A pharmaceutical composition containing roflumilast prepared according to Claim 15, ~~16 or 17~~ together with a

~~conventional~~ pharmaceutical auxiliary and/or excipient
~~auxiliaries and/or excipients.~~

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the treatment
of mammals, including humans, suffering from an acute or
chronic airway disorder, a dermatosis or an arthritic
disorder, characterized in that a therapeutically effective
amount of the roflumilast prepared according to Claim 15-
~~16 or 17~~ is administered together with a ~~conventional~~
pharmaceutical auxiliary and/or excipient ~~auxiliaries~~
~~and/or excipients~~ to the mammal with the disorder.